

L&L-10197 - Application No. 10/008,774  
Response to Office action 3/8/2006  
Response submitted May 9, 2006

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 19-21, 23-25, and 27 are now in the application. The claims have been amended as follows:

- **Claim 1:** the subject matter of claim 8 has been incorporated into claim 1. In light of the indicated allowability of claim 8, the amended claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.
- Dependent claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 13 have not been amended.
- **Claim 15:** the subject matter of claim 8 has been incorporated into claim 15. In light of the indicated allowability of claim 8, the amended claim 15 is now in condition for allowance.
- **Claim 19:** the subject matter of claim 22 has been incorporated into claim 19. In light of the indicated allowability of claim 22, the amended claim 19 is now in condition for allowance.
- Dependent claims 20, 21, and 23-25 have not been amended.

The newly added claim 27 finds support in Fig. 5 and in the specification, page 15, line 19, to page 19, line 5.

The newly added independent claim 27 is patentable over the prior art of record. Specifically, Shizawa et al. (US 5,311,457) – see Fig. 5 – do not show or fairly suggest a configuration established by K chains of memory elements each

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consisting of shift registers of K memory locations and a number of k-1 leading memory locations, at the k-th input, respectively.

Instead, the circuit shown in Fig. 5 of Shizawa et al. uses a single chain of memory elements which is connected to the zero-inserting elements  $50_1$ ,  $50_2$ , ...,  $50_n$  via the multiplexer 22.

The Examiner's careful review of the prior art vis-à-vis the claimed invention is appreciated. While we do not necessarily agree that the rejection of the claims as presented in the Office action is proper, we have nevertheless accepted the allowability of claims 8 and 22 in an order to expedite the application. We do indeed agree that the subject matter of claims 8 and 22 renders the claimed combination patentable over the art of record. None of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 15, 19, and 27. These claims are, therefore, patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent thereon, they are patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims are solicited.

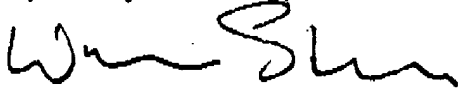
If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Enclosed herewith is counsel's payment in the amount of \$ 200.00 for one extra independent claim. The total number of claims in the application remains below

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twenty. Kindly charge any other fees which might be due to counsel's deposit  
account No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant(s)

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WHS:bh

May 9, 2006

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